

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10064 261830Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-10 /072 W

----- 086561

R 260655Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 208

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10064

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PINT

SUBJ: MRS RITA HAUSER'S INTERVIEW WITH MRS GANDHI

REF: NEW DELHI 10065

1. IN A 45 MINUTE PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH US LAWYER AND PUBLIC FIGURE MRS RITA HOUSER, PM GANDHI EXTENSIVELY REVIEWED IN HER USUAL TERMS THE REASONS FOR HER DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. MRS HAUSER WAS STRUCK BY MRS GANDHI'S FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PRESS. THE PM ACCUSED THE PRESS OF CONSISTENTLY HAVING ATTACKED THE NEHRU FAMILY, BOTH HER FATHER WHEN HE WAS PRIME MINISTER, AND HERSELF. "THEY ARE ALL AGAINST ME", SHE SAID, "RESORTING TO VICIOUS SLANDER AND ALUMNY, AND I WILL NOT HAVE IT." THIS LAST REMARK, WAS DELIVERED WITH A SLAM OF THE PALM AGAINST HER DESK AND A TONE OF GREAT INTENSITY. SHE ACCUSED INDIAN JOURNALISTS OF PROVIDING SUCH SLANDEROUS MATERIAL TO FORIEGN NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS AS WELL, BUT OTHERWISE DID NOT FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF CENSORSHIP OF THE FOREIGN PRESS.

2. AT THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST, MRS HAUSER SPECIFICALLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10064 261830Z

PRESSED THE PM ON HER REMARKS CITED IN REFTEL ABOUT

EXTERNAL SOURCES OF MONEY AND PUBLICITY FOR THE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION IN INDIA. SHE ASKED WHAT COUNTRIES MRS GANDHI HAD IN MIND, AND WHETHER SHE REALLY BELIEVED FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WERE INVOLVED. MRS GANDHI DODGED AWAY FROM THE QUESTION, OBSERVING ONLY THAT THE GOVT KNEW THERE WERE BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVT FUNDS WHICH HAD COME TO CERTAIN OPPOSITION GROUPS, AND THAT SOME OF THE GORIGN PRESS HAD SUPPORTED AND PUBLICIZED THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME OPPOSITION GROUPS. SHE DECLINED, HOWEVER, TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY SPECIFIC STATEMENT ON WHICH COUNTRIES AND WHICH OPPOSITION GROUPS SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

3. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF INDI-US RELATIONS, MRS HAUSER SAID THE SHE HOPED FOR BETTER RELATIONS BUT THERE WERE OCCASIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. SHE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO ASK WHETHER MRS HAUSER THOUGHT THE US CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE FUNDING. SHE OBSERVED THAT INDIA WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL BUILD-UP OF ARMS IN THE ME STATES. SHE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS NOT ANYTHING THAT INDIA COULD DO ABOUT IT. MRS HAUSER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE DEIGO GARCIA PROJECT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE SANCTIONED. MRS GANDHI SIGHED AND SAID SHE GUESSED THERE REALLY WAS NOT ANYTHING SHE COULD DO ABOUT IT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON THE LENGTH OF TIME THE EMERGENCY WOULD GO ON, AND THE POSSIBLE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS, MRS GANDHI BECAME VERY VAGUE. SHE THOUGHT THE EMERGENCY WOULD HAVE TO LAST "QUITE SOME TIME YET", UNTIL THE COUNTRY WAS READY FOR ITS REMOVAL. SHE WAS NOT PREPARED TO HAZARD ANY ESTIMATE AS TO TIMING OF ELECTIONS.

5. MRS HAUSER COMMENTED TO AN EMBOFF IN BRIEFLY SUMMARIZING THE ABOVE HIGHLIGHTS FROM HER CONVERSATION, THAT IT APPEARED TO HER THAT THE PM WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE, AND WAS PROBABLY MAKING HER DECISIONS ALMOST FROM DAY TO DAY. MRS GANDHI CONSTANTLY TOYED WITH A PAPERWEIGHT WHILE SHE TALKED, AND HAD A BAD TWITCH NEXT TO HER LEFT EYE THE ENTIRE TIME (THIS WAS NOT CONSPICUOUS DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH THE PM TWO DAYS EARLIER).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10064 261830Z

SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, THE PRESS, PRESS CONFERENCES, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE10064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0521
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750718/aaaaapvr.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 10065
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS RITA HAUSER'S INTERVIEW WITH MRS GANDHI
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (HAUSER, RITA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006